

Option Name: Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants - Himalayan balsam

Option Code: AHB

Option Payment: Year 1: Actual costs

Option Aim(s): To decrease the area of Himalayan balsam on priority habitats located on semi-natural sites, thereby enhancing their biodiversity.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This option is made up of: Annual Management requirements NPI (capital items)

This option is: Permanent Rotational

Option Description and Outcome: This capital works Option will control Himalayan balsam on semi - natural habitats to increase the biodiversity value of the site. Payment for the essential capital works is included in the Option payment rate.

Choice of site: 'Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants – Himalayan balsam' may only be carried out in EFS(H) and EFS(G). The need for 'Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants - Himalayan balsam' will be specified in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). The area and location to be controlled will be clearly detailed on the ssRMP map.

Essential capital works: Himalayan balsam control is considered as capital works.

Additional optional capital works available for this Option: None

Area Permitted: Minimum 0.0001 ha (1 m²) Maximum Not Applicable*

* DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
AHB1A	Complete all 'Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants - Himalayan balsam' by 1 st June in the specified year of the EFS(H) or EFS(G) agreement.			✓
AHB2A	Complete the claimed area of 'Primary or follow-up treatments of invasive non-native plants - Himalayan balsam' in the field(s) where the works have been approved.	✓	✓	
AHB3A	Keep field records as required in the site specific Remedial Management Plan.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Further Advice:

Observe all relevant Health and Safety guidelines when operating machinery, using hand tools and applying chemicals when completing works under this Option. Work should not be carried out when ground conditions are wet in order to minimise damage to the site.

For further information on Health and Safety guidelines, please check the attached link to the Health and Safety Executive NI:

<http://www.hseni.gov.uk/guidance/industries/agriculture-3-column.htm>

Any noxious weeds which colonise the site following the removal of the Himalayan balsam must be controlled as required by the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977. This is by cutting between 1st July and 15th March or, where justified as part of the implementation of IPM, with an approved herbicide, applied using a spot sprayer only. Noxious weeds are as listed under the Noxious Weeds Order 1977 and include wild oat (*Avena fatua* L.); thistle (*Cirsium vulgare* (Savi) Ten.); *Cirsium arvense* (L. Scop.), dock (*Rumex obtusifolius* L.; *Rumex crispus* L.) and ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea* L.).

Repeat checks/treatments should be carried out each month to identify and treat any late germinating seeds.

For further information on the correct way to use pesticides, please refer to the attached link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/code-practice-using-plant-protection-products>

It is your responsibility to ensure you comply with the Waste Management Regulations (NI) 2006 and Cross-Compliance requirements.